

LVIII.—A new Jird (*Meriones*) from Southern Palestine.
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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MR. P. A. BUXTON, the donor of so many interesting mammals from Palestine and Mesopotamia to the National Museum, has now sent three examples of a *Meriones* of the "b" group, allied to *M. lybicus* and *syrius*, but evidently distinct from both. It may be called

*Meriones sacramenti**, sp. n.

General colour above as in *M. syrius*, though the light eye- and ear-patches are a little more evident. Under surface wholly white to the bases of the hairs, while in both *syrius* and *lybicus* the hairs are slaty at their bases. Tail buffy like the body for its basal part, not ochraceous, its end tufted and blackened as in the allied species, the extreme tip white in the type (imperfect in the other two specimens).

Skull of the same size as in *lybicus* and *syrius*, and with similarly developed bullæ and supra-meatal triangles, all three being members of group *b* of my paper on the genus †. But the interorbital width is markedly narrower than in either, a character evidently diagnostic of the species.

Dimensions (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 160 mm.; tail 150; hind foot 36; ear 18.5.

Skull: median length 40; greatest diagonal length 41.6; condylo-incisive length 32; nasals 15.2; interorbital breadth 6.1; meatal breadth 23.8; palatine foramina 7.8; upper molar series 5.9.

Hab. Southern Palestine. Type from 10 miles south of Beer-sheba.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 22. 10. 4. 1. Original number 529. Collected 17th July, 1922, and presented by P. A. Buxton, Esq. Three specimens examined.

This South-Palestine Jird is only nearly related to the above two species of the *b* group, and from these may be

* Beer-sheba = the well of the oath or covenant (*sacramentum*).

† Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) iii. p. 263 (1919).

readily distinguished by its narrow interorbital space and wholly white under surface.

For members of the genus *Meriones* the name Jird, first introduced by Shaw in 1738, and spasmodically used by various authors ever since, may well be adopted as a standard vernacular term, the word Gerbil being restricted to *Gerbillus* and its nearer allies.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

The Coccidæ of Ceylon.—Part V. By E. E. GREEN.
Dulau & Co. 1922.

THE last part of Green's monumental work on the Coccidæ of Ceylon has appeared. Like the preceding parts, the work is profusely illustrated, the plates being done from drawings by the author himself; each species is very carefully delineated, and many of the figures coloured. Though the price is high (£3), considering the class of work and the cost of production it is not excessive. By the conclusion of the work the author has contributed in no small way in placing the study of the Coccidæ upon a footing, from a systematic point of view, such as few families of insects have reached. The work is not only a description of the adult insect itself; in nearly all cases the early stages are described, and very valuable field-notes, made by the author while in Ceylon, are included. In the present part the Eriococcinæ, Dactylopiinæ, Tachardiinæ, Ortheziinæ, Margarodinæ, and Monophlebinae are dealt with. Six new genera, twenty-seven new species, and several new varieties are described. The author's conception of the limits of the genus *Monophlebus*—and he is probably right—is wider than that of some other authors, the genera *Drosicha*, *Llaveia*, *Tessarabolus*, *Ortonia*, *Guerinia*, and *Monophlebulus* being sunk as synonyms. Two appendices are added, the first correcting, emending, or adding to the previous parts, and the second giving a very useful list of those species of Coccidæ which have been described as new or recorded from Ceylon since the various parts were first published.

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PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 24th, 1922.—Prof. A. C. Seward, Sc.D., F.R.S., President, and afterwards Dr. G. T. Prior, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT then proceeded to deliver a lecture (illustrated